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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Foreign Aid, 1957 May 13  
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear  
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1957.

Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, transcribed, United States Senator J. Allen Frear reports again to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Frear.

Senator Frear: Thank you, Mr. Kelly. A comprehensive report on foreign aid has just been released by a special Senate committee accorded to study our overseas assistance program. This document is well worth the attention of every American taxpayer, not only because of its recommendations, but because of the information with its (unintelligible [00:46]) supplied with the cost of helping our allies. In this brief statement, there is no time to discuss the report in detail, but a few brief highlights may be significant. Since World War II, the United States has spent for foreign grants and (unintelligible [01:01]) a total of almost fifty-eight billion dollars, or about five billion dollars a year. This sum assists some fifty countries. It's fair to assume that most Americans have generally favored the concept of foreign aid to support and strengthen collective security among friendly countries against the menace of international Communism. Surely, to a considerable extent, our foreign aid has helped to achieve this objective. But because its cost has been so tremendous and so burdensome to American taxpayers, and because foreign aid was, at its inception, designed as a temporary measure. It was felt by the Congress that a special committee should review all aspects of the program to determine, so to speak, where do we go from here. In this connection, some of the committee's recommendations are of particular interest. For one thing, its members propose that the objective of our various foreign aid programs should be separated, refined, and restated as necessary by the executive branch and the Congress if we are to continue grants. Military aid should be continued in efforts consistent with national security, should be made to reduce the rate of expenditure. The committee also encourages a continuation of non-military aid, but in lesser amounts. And likewise, (unintelligible [02:28]) recommends a continuation of technical assistance: a proposal with which I am happy to agree. One of the committee's important conclusions is the suggesting of economic development assistance to put on a new (unintelligible [02:45]) basis, to means of a development from that will help encourage expanded participation by private enterprise. The committee also makes a series of additional recommendations regarding the administration of our various

aid programs. Since this report has just been made public, it is not as yet possible to predict the attitude of Congress or the President on its merits. However, the makeup of this committee, which includes the full membership of the Foreign Relations Committee, the ranking representative of the Committee on Arms (unintelligible [03:16]) Appropriations, indicate that its findings will exercise important (unintelligible [03:22]) on the other members of the Senate, and probably the House of Representatives. Basic in the committee's findings is the pressing conviction for saving the Federal funds, in other words, our tax payer's dollars. Our finding that the Foreign Aid Program furthers the national interest, the committee is nonetheless fully aware of the compelling necessity to economize future requests for overseas assistance. In reaching this conclusion, the committee echoes the Senate and the most tax payers because the average contribution of every American man, woman, and child for our foreign aid program since World War II has been two hundred and eighty-seven dollars, or about twenty-six dollars per person per year. It is natural to ask how much better off, or sores off, the United States is today because of its foreign aid expenditures. Certainly, I believe some of these funds could have been more prudently used, but I likewise believe that such programs are (unintelligible [04:27]) Turkish Aid Project, and others contribute immeasurably in keeping these governments as free nations. I see in the committee's (unintelligible [04:38]) that foreign aid is not an end in itself, but rather an instrument of national policy, and I trust that the objective of this policy is to help create conditions in the world which will permit termination of foreign aid programs so that they will no longer constitute a burden on the American people.

**[05:01]**

Mr. Kelly:

Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in his regular report to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time.

**[End 05:18]**